



Letter to the Ephesians

Study Guide 2016



The Conflict of the Church

3. Can you give examples of how prayer has been answered in your life?

4. What effects does prayer have on the one praying, the people we pray for, and the circumstances?

5. How can we grow the Prayer Ministry in our congregation

A What is one action you can take this week to apply the truth God has revealed in this study? .

P Pray for God to empower and enable you to grow in your prayer life and that we may be a people of fervent prayer.

Sermon Notes

Mt Evelyn Christian Reformed Church

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Ph: (03) 9736 1087

Worship Services: Sunday 9am & 6pm

The Conflict of the Church

Big Idea... Pray in the Spirit.

S Read and meditate on Ephesians 6:18-19

O Paul ends his letter by commanding us to pray. Because without prayer we cannot use all the resources God has given us to fight the spiritual battle. It shows how completely dependant we are on Him. Praying in the Spirit on all occasions for all the Saints, including Paul himself, highlights Paul's major theme of the unity of the Body of Christ. All God's people need to **pray for each other**, wherever they have been scattered in the world. Prayer changes things. To pray, we have to humble ourselves, admit we are not in control and bring God the glory. Even the great apostle Paul admits he needs their prayers. And God uses our prayers as we cooperate with Him in doing His will. Isn't that a wonderful encouragement? As we end this study let's commit ourselves to pray and work for the unity and building up of the Body of Christ and as we fight the good fight.

1. Do you have any trouble finding time, opportunity or the will to pray?
Why?

2. Why is it so hard to get believers to prayer meetings?

3. Can you give examples of how prayer has been answered in your life?

Mt Evelyn Christian Reformed Church

We are a community church with contemporary worship, relevant teaching and programs for all ages.

Vision:

Actively putting God first in all of life.

Mission:

Receiving
Growing in **Grace**
Leading with

Small Group Ministry

Small Groups are an essential part of what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ and a part of the church family here at MECRC. We aim not to be a church with small groups, but rather **a church made up of small groups**. Small groups are the main place you can find true community and grow in grace and Christlikeness (Romans 6:1-23, 2 Peter 3:18).

We promote and resource small groups to be places where we grow together, do mission together, accept and disciple new Christians, develop leaders, and do all of the Bible's 'one another' ministries – pray, encourage, serve, help, admonish, learn, grow and, above all, **love one another**.

Small Group Vision

To connect people in community where they can continue to **grow** each other to maturity in Christ, striving to be continually **transformed** by getting to know God and each other, **servicing** the Church and **reaching** the lost.

Why do we need Small Groups and why join one?

At MECRC we firmly believe that God wants us to experience LIFE together. The Bible calls this fellowship. We experience this only through authentic relationships – with God and each other:

By meeting together we can initiate and foster **spiritual growth**, community and friendship. We can share our highs and lows, pray for one another, **share faith journeys** together, and ultimately feel more a part of the wider church community – this, we hope, is a strong desire for everyone at MECRC.

19th June

Part 2: Practical - Ephesians 4-6

The Conflict of the Church

4. So faith brings Jesus into the battle and protects you from Satan's attacks. What difference does that make to how you live?

5. How should we use the Bible as a weapon in our fight against evil?

- A** What is one action you can take this week to apply the truth God has revealed in this study? .

- P** Pray that we will be aware of our struggle and remain in the Lord where we are protected and able to fight.

Sermon Notes

The Conflict of the Church

Big Idea... Defence, Warfare and Power.

- S** Read and meditate on Ephesians 6:10-17
- O** In this last section Paul summarises the teaching of his letter. He illustrates the resources God provides us with the image of a soldier's armour. It is to "live a life worthy of your calling", and to be in the Lord. It is also **a call to battle**. To defend ourselves against Satan's attacks and from the position of standing firm, fighting the rulers, the authorities, the powers of this dark world and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms with the Word of God

1. What part can you play in fulfilling God's plan to unite everything in Christ?

2. How will Satan and his demons try to stop you from doing it? How can you be on your guard?

3. How can the armour help you to stand firm?

at MECRC

What is a 'Small Group'?

A small group generally comprises 5 – 12 people who meet regularly in a relaxed environment to support one another, and discuss how God's Word transforms our lives. There are several dimensions to small groups that we pray all members will experience and participate in. These are:

- Love.** We express love to God through prayer, worship and praise.
- Learn.** As we open the Bible, we learn about Jesus and His will for our lives.
- Serve.** Serving is part of following Jesus together. Each group will decide how to express Christian love to our community or within the Church family.
- Reach.** We want our groups to be places where others can ask questions about Jesus and meet some of His followers.

Why join a Small Group?

Small groups are an integral part of our church. As well as mixed adult groups, there are groups for new Christians, young adults, ladies and youth. There are also 'pop up groups' with a short term special focus, such as marriage enrichment, evangelism, raising children, etc.

How do I join a Small Group?

There are many small groups in our church.

To join a group that's right for you, contact our Small Group Coordinator, Lesley Schoenmaker at 0432 239 841, or the Church Office at 9736 1087.

Letter to the Church at Ephesus, the Body of Christ

INTRODUCTION

1. Paul, a Prisoner for Jesus Christ
2. The Saints in Ephesus

PART ONE: Doctrinal - Ephesians 1-3

The Purpose of God

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 3. Salvation, planned by the Father | Ephesians 1:1-6 |
| 4. Salvation, purchased by the Son | Ephesians 1:7-12 |
| 5. Salvation, applied by the Spirit | Ephesians 1:13-14 |
| 6. Paul's Prayer for Wisdom & Revelation | Ephesians 1:15-17 |
| 7. Paul's Prayer for an Enlightened Heart | Ephesians 1:18-23 |

The People of God

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| 8. Dead Sinners made Alive by Grace | Ephesians 2:1-3 |
| 9. Jesus before the Cross | Ephesians 2:4-5 |
| 10. Jesus after the Cross | Ephesians 2:6-9 |
| 11. God's Workmanship | Ephesians 2:10 |
| 12. Jews & Gentiles made One in Christ | Ephesians 2:11-22 |

The Purpose of the Church

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|--|-------------------|
| 13. Revealing God's manifold Wisdom | Ephesians 3:1-13 |
| 14. Paul's second Prayer for Believers | Ephesians 3:14-21 |

12th June
Part 2: Practical - Ephesians 4-6

Social Conduct

4. Is there a time workers can go on strike demanding better conditions and pay?

5. What have you seen or experienced that highlight the teaching in this study?

- A** What is one action you can take this week to apply the truth God has revealed in this study? .

- P** Pray that we will know God has all authority and puts us in workplaces to serve and witness for Him.

Sermon Notes

12th June
Part 2: Practical - Ephesians 4-6

Social Conduct

Big Idea... Conduct in the workplace.

- S** Read and meditate on Ephesians 6:5-9.
- O** Paul now shows how submission to one another applies to the workplace. Remember what life was like in Rome at the time. Paul, again, gives unbelievably radical advice for his day - slaves are to obey, respect and fear their masters with sincerity of heart as they would if working for Christ! And masters are to treat slaves like equals! Because when judgement day comes **there will be no difference between slave and master**. Sadly, in the history of the Church there are many examples of Christians separating their business from their faith. It is so tragic to see Christian bosses taking advantage of their workers or Christian workers taking advantage of their bosses.

1. What does it look like to obey with respect, fear and sincerity of heart?

2. How does the Lord reward slaves or free people who do good?

3. What difference does it make to know that God has authority over masters and slaves alike?

Prison Break Series

February 7th - June 26th

PART TWO: Practical - Ephesians 4-6

Church Conduct

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|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 15. One Body | Ephesians 4:1-6 |
| 16. Gifts to build up the Body | Ephesians 4:7-16 |

Personal Conduct

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 17. The Old Me | Ephesians 4:1-6 |
| 18. The New Me | Ephesians 5:1-20 |

Social Conduct

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 19. Conduct in Marriage | Ephesians 5:21-33 |
| 20. Conduct in Family | Ephesians 6:1-4 |
| 21. Conduct in the Workplace | Ephesians 6:5-9 |

The Conflict of the Church

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|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 22. Defence, Warfare & Power | Ephesians 6:10-17 |
| 23. Pray in the Spirit | Ephesians 6:18-19 |

LISTEN TO SERMONS
ONLINE



Just visit www.mtevelyn.crca.org.au

How to use this Study Guide

This study guide is designed to be used in your **personal devotion** time but you will gain the greatest benefits if you also **study it together** in a small group. Anyone can join a small group, whether you love and follow Jesus or you are interested in learning more about who Jesus is and what it means to follow Him.

We believe journaling is an excellent way to both record and process what God has spoken to us. It's also a useful tool to prepare for your life group discussions, reflect on it again at a later date or review some of the 'gems' that you have received. Discussing it in groups will enable you to look deeper into what God is speaking to you, gain new insights and even encourage others. We recommend the S.O.A.P method, as taught by Pastor Wayne Cordeiro (New Hope Oahu).

S for Scripture

Open your Bible to the text for that week. Take time to read it prayerfully, allowing God to speak to you. When you are finished answer the questions provided.

O for Observation

What do you think God is saying to you as you study? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you. Look for truths that particularly spoke to you and write them down in this study guide.

A for Application

Personalise what you have read by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, the revelation of a new promise, or corrections for a particular area of your life. Write how this study can apply to you today.

P for Prayer

This can be as simple as asking God to help you use this passage, or it may be a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say!

5th June
Part 2: Practical - Ephesians 4-6

Social Conduct

4. How do you think we can sometimes provoke children to anger? What are some practical ways we can avoid it?

5. What are some specific ways we can bring our children up in the training and instruction of the Lord?

- A** What is one action you can take this week to apply the truth God has revealed in this study? .

- P** Pray for forgiveness where you have failed and the wisdom and love to do this well.

Sermon Notes

Social Conduct

Big Idea... Submission and loving in Families.

- S** Read and meditate on Ephesians 6:1-5.
- O** In this passage Paul is still teaching submission to one another. This time he moves from marriage to the mutual responsibilities of children and parents. Keep in mind that in the Roman world at the time the head of the family had absolute authority. He could get rid of any unwanted children; sell them off as slaves, disinherit them, or even put them to death. So this is a quite a shift in thinking for the Church of the day. Paul teaches that now we are in Christ, parents have a great **responsibility before God** to use their power lovingly and wisely.

1. Do you think children today are less obedient and respectful than in the past? If so, why?

2. How do you normally react to a child who deliberately disobeys you? Can you apply anything you have learned in this study of Ephesians?

3. What does it mean to honour our father and mother? Do we always obey everything they say?

Introduction to Ephesians

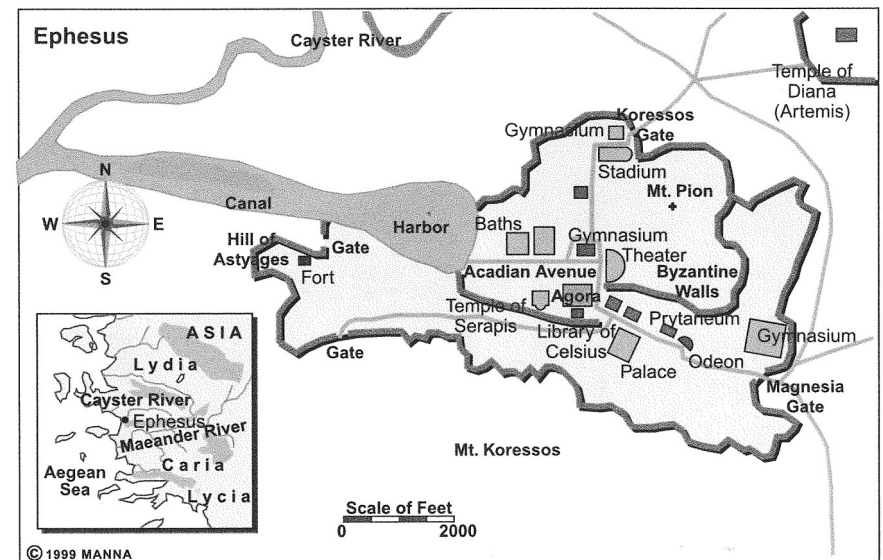
Where and when was it written?

Paul wrote to the Ephesians from a **prison cell** (3:1; 4:1; 6:20) in Rome, **around 61 A.D** (Acts 28:30). Tychicus was the man who delivered this letter (6:21), as well as Colossians (4:7) and Philemon. We also believe Philippians was written from the same cell because of its similar style and content.

To whom was it written?

Ephesians is primarily written to **Gentile (non-Jewish) followers of Christ** in the church in Ephesus. Unlike some of Paul's other letters, it doesn't begin with individual greetings, which means while it was written to the Ephesians, it was also intended to be circulated to all the churches founded as a result of the mission throughout the Asian province at the time.

THE CITY OF EPHEBUS



Introduction to Ephesians, continued

Why was it written?

Paul wrote this letter to **encourage Gentile believers**, and to make it clear that Jews and Gentiles have been brought together as part of one body in Christ (Eph 4:1-6). To expand their horizons so that they better understand the global dimensions of **God's eternal purpose** and grace and come to appreciate the high goals God has for His Church. He also gives plenty of **practical advice** for living as God's people. He was concerned His readers may have been lax in following moral laws.

What does it say?

Ephesians is mostly an **encouraging** letter. Because of Christianity's strong roots in Jewish history and religion, it was natural for early Christians to wonder if Christ's Gospel was only for Jews, or Jewish Christians. Paul clearly tells his Gentile brothers and sisters that in God's kingdom, they are first-class citizens alongside their Jewish brothers and sisters. Paul shares his vision of a **Christian community united by love** and common purpose under the headship of Christ. It is a place where each believer is connected to Jesus by faith and joined to each other to form a living organism. Living together in love, every member grows to spiritual maturity and the body is built up. To teach this he uses a number of phrases and metaphors that illustrate unity: the **'body of Christ'** as a description of God's kingdom on earth, and marriage as a picture of Jesus' relationship with the Church.

Paul also reminds his readers that since they now belong to Christ, they must start living their lives differently. They need to get rid of immorality and strive for **spiritual purity**. But he makes it clear that they can't do it in their own strength but they **need the Holy Spirit** and must put on the 'armor of God.' It's a wonderful letter, filled with rich descriptions of God's grace and practical advice for living as God's people.

29th May
Part 2: Practical - Ephesians 4-6

Social Conduct

4. What does it mean to become one flesh?

 5. Husbands are to love their wives as they love themselves. What do you need to do personally to promote this?

- A** What is one action you can take this week to apply the truth God has revealed in this study? .

- P** Pray that God will give us the courage to submit and love as we are called to.

Sermon Notes

Social Conduct

Big Idea... Submission and loving in Church and Marriage.

S Read and meditate on Ephesians 5:21-33.

O Paul has commanded us to be more Christlike by putting off the old self and putting on the new. In this passage he teaches the principle of mutual submission in the Christian Church and home. Many dislike this passage because they believe submitting means losing your freedoms or being made inferior to someone else. But this is not what Paul is saying. Jesus submitted Himself to the will of the Father. He didn't come to be served, but to serve (Matt 20:28). We are to be the same. We would gladly submit to one who gives his life to enable us to be all God has created us to be. Paul means that we are to **submit to one another** and wives set the example of submission and husbands set the example of loving.

1. What would change if everyone in our congregation submitted to one another out of reverence for Christ?

2. Consider and write down what truly submitting to your husband looks like.

3. Consider and write down what truly loving your wife looks like.

Introduction

1. Paul, a Prisoner for Jesus Christ

Paul describes himself as “the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles” (Eph 3:1). He was sent to Rome after he exercised his legal right as a Roman citizen to appeal his case to Caesar (Acts 26:32). After a life-threatening voyage across the Mediterranean Sea, which included a shipwreck on Malta, Paul arrived in Rome (Acts 28:16). It was early spring, about the year 61 A.D. In prison he didn't waste his time feeling sorry for himself or doubting God's care for him. He used every opportunity to preach the Gospel, including writing four letters to the churches.

Have you ever, or do you feel trapped or 'imprisoned'? It may be illness, depression, being housebound with young children, an unhappy marriage, old age, or some other infirmity. This year, how will you **use your imprisonment to glorify God** and advance His kingdom?

Write down a circumstance you feel imprisoned by, and commit to using it for God's glory in 2016.

2. The Saints in Ephesus

Read Acts 16:6, 18:19-19:41

The city of Ephesus was the most important city in western Asia Minor (now Turkey). It had a harbour that, at that time, opened into the Cayster River, which emptied into the Aegean Sea. It was also an intersection of major trade routes which made Ephesus a thriving commercial centre with a large population and many monuments. It was also the home of the huge

7th February

Introduction

imposing temple dedicated to the Roman goddess Artemis (Dianna) (Acts 19:23-31). Paul made Ephesus his centre for evangelism for about three years. The church flourished for many years, but Revelations 2:1-7 shows that later they needed a warning because they had forsaken their first love and fallen from a great height.

This was the city where Paul met about twelve men who had received a baptism of repentance by John the Baptist but they had not heard of the Holy Spirit. After Paul placed his hands on them the Holy Spirit came upon them in power. Can you imagine living without the Holy Spirit? Living in a large community of immoral people who worship all kinds of pagan gods. They had repented and were trying to please God by keeping all the rules they were given. But they were struggling without the power of God to enable them to die to self and receive the life Jesus had won for them!

Write down what the Holy Spirit has set you free from. Then spend time in prayer giving thanks for the gift and work of the Holy Spirit in your life.

LIVE IN RESPONSE

Write down what you want the Holy Spirit to give you victory over.

22nd May
Part 2: Practical - Ephesians 4-6

Personal Conduct

4. Why do Christians sing? (v19) What difference does it make personally and in the congregation? ?

5. What things in your life do you have trouble thanking God for? (v20)

A What is one action you can take this week to apply the truth God has revealed in this study? .

P Pray the Holy Spirit will empower you to put on the New Self so you can be more effective in building up the body.

Sermon Notes

Personal Conduct

Big Idea... Put off the Old Me.

- S** Read and meditate on Ephesians 4:17-32.
- O** In this passage Paul commands believers to “no longer live as the Gentiles do.” (v17). He then explains that those who have come to know Christ **put off the old self**, with its futile thinking, hard hearts, lustful desires, unquenchable appetites and deceitful speech. Their lifestyle is to stand out and they are to form a counter-culture.
1. Describe the ‘old self’ from this passage.

 2. In what ways does our Australian culture show human sinfulness?

 3. Is it easy to stand out as a follower of Christ in our culture? What do you struggle with most?

 4. Paul has said that our salvation is a free gift of God’s grace not earned by works. Why then does He command us to put off the ‘old me’?

The Purpose of God

4. How can we make praise a more vital part in our lives?

 5. What do you think of this phrase? “Christians should worry less about if they are saved and more about the purposes God has them for.”

- A** What is one action you can take this week to apply the truth God has revealed in this study?

- P** Pray for the power, courage and will to do what God has revealed to you.

Sermon Notes

The Purpose of God

Big Idea... Our Salvation is purchased by God the Son, so that our sins are forgiven.

- S** Read and meditate on Ephesians 1:7-12.
- O** In this passage Paul spells out the rich blessings of being 'in Christ' and what that means. If God the Father is the architect of our salvation, Christ is the builder, because He did it all for us. Apart from Him we have nothing, but in a relationship with Him we share in the wealth of the new creation. It's all been generously poured on us, only by grace. We have been chosen by God to be His children and it has been **won for us through Jesus' sacrifice!**

1. List what happens to us because of our union with Christ.

2. In verse 9-10, what exactly is the mystery of God's will that has been revealed to us?

3. How do you feel when you hear that you are a part of God's universal plan? How will this knowledge affect your life this week?

Church Conduct

4. How can we speak the truth in love? How does it help?

 5. Are you thankful for the gifts that are being used in our church? How are you showing it and encouraging them?

- A** What is one action you can take this week to apply the truth God has revealed in this study? .

- P** Pray for spiritual wisdom and boldness to speak the truth in love and encourage everyone to know and use their gifts to build up Christ's Church.

Sermon Notes

Church Conduct

Big Idea... The victorious Christ has given gifts to build up His Body.

- S** Read and meditate on Ephesians 4:7-16
- O** Paul has pleaded for the Church to display unity in Christ. Now he takes care to emphasise that not everyone is to be the same. But there is to be a **unity in diversity** where many different people with different gifts, talents, outlooks and personalities come together to serve in a way that builds up the body. The vitality of the Church depends on every member's loving service.
1. List some needs we have in our congregation. After each one, write down a gift that will meet that need.

 2. Did you see any gaps? Any needs but no gifts to meet that needs? Or gifts that are not being used?

 3. What are the marks of a mature church? Does our church display them?

The Purpose of God

4. How do you understand the words 'chosen' and 'predestined' in verse 11?

 5. What does it mean to be destined and appointed to live for the glory of His grace? How does this truth impact our everyday life?

- A** What is one action you can take this week to apply the truth God has revealed in this study?

- P** Pray for the power, courage and will to do what God has revealed to you.

Sermon Notes

The Purpose of God

Big Idea... Our Salvation is applied to our lives through the Word by the Holy Spirit.

- S** Read and meditate on Ephesians 1:13-14.
- O** In this passage Paul explains that the Holy Spirit has moved into the building that God the Father has planned and God the Son has built. We are brought in through the **Word of Truth** by the work of the Holy Spirit.
1. What is the Word of Truth and what part does it play in our salvation? .

 2. What are we to do with the Word of Truth?

 3. What does it mean to be “sealed with the Holy Spirit” and how does that change the way we live?

 4. The Holy Spirit is a ‘guarantee’, or deposit, of our promised inheritance (v 14). What part do we play in receiving the inheritance?

Church Conduct

4. What are you prepared to do to promote unity in our congregation?

 5. What can we do as a congregation to promote unity with the churches around us?

- A** What is one action you can take this week to apply the truth God has revealed in this study? .

- P** Pray for the Holy Spirit to grant us the humility and will to build up the Church in a unity that is contagious.

Sermon Notes

The Purpose of the Church

Big Idea... Paul prays believers will be strengthened by the Spirit, indwelt by Christ and filled with the fullness of God.

S Read and meditate on Ephesians 3:14-21.

O In this passage Paul continues where he left off back at 3:1a. He interrupted his train of thought to describe himself as a prisoner for Christ, his ministry and message, and the purpose of the Church. Now he picks up where he left off with an **awesome prayer for believers** to be strengthened by the Spirit (v16), indwelt by Jesus (v17) and filled with God (v19), and concludes with a doxology.

1. Who are God's family in heaven and earth and what does it mean to derive our name from the Father?

2. In what ways do we need to be strengthened by the Holy Spirit? What is this strength for?

3. How does Christ dwell in our hearts through faith? What changes in us when He does?

The Purpose of God

4. What is 'the Spirit of wisdom and revelation'? How will these change our perspective on life and Church?

5. Paul is so concerned for the believers to know the Father better. Why is it so important?

A What do you need wisdom for today? What do you need to be enlightened about?

P Pray that God will give you wisdom and enlightenment for what you have written, and look to see how He answers.

Sermon Notes

The Purpose of God

Big Idea... Paul desperately prays that God will enlighten the eyes of the believers' hearts and that they will experience the working of His incomparably great power.

S Read and meditate on Ephesians 1:18-23.

O Paul continues his model prayer for believers. Here he shows that it's OK to pray for mission projects, new leaders and volunteers, or for our Church redevelopment. But nothing is more important than to pray for believers to sense and experience enlightenment and **God's incomparably great power at work** in them. Everything else is secondary. This is the only way our church will be the true church.

1. What can the eyes of an enlightened heart see that the world cannot?

2. How do you think God's 'incomparably great power' at work in us can to be seen by the world?

3. What is the purpose of this power at work in us?

4. What would hinder this power being seen?

The Purpose of the Church

4. What is the purpose of the Church according to verses 10-11?

5. What is the manifold wisdom of God? How is it made known today?

A What is one action you can take this week to apply the truth God has revealed in this study? .

P Pray God will reveal His unique purpose for you personally and we together as His Church.

Sermon Notes

17th April

Part 1: Doctrinal - Ephesians 1-3

The Purpose of the Church

Big Idea... We are the Church and we are here to reveal God's manifold wisdom.

- S** Read and meditate on Ephesians 3:1-13.
 - O** After Paul taught that we have been saved to do good works, he demonstrates it with his own life. He wrote that he is less than the least of the apostles (v8) but God's grace was given him to do good works for them (v2). Even being in prison was **part of God's plan** for them (v1,13). This wonderful letter was used to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ to them, so that through the Church the manifold wisdom of God will be made known to everyone everywhere.
1. Paul knows full well that he was saved for the purpose of preaching the Gospel to the Gentiles (v7-8). What are you saved for? What will you be held accountable for?

 2. What can we learn from Paul about how God reveals His mission and purpose to us?

 3. What is the 'mystery' Paul refers to twice in verse 4-6? What difference does it make in your life?

13th March

Part 1: Doctrinal - Ephesians 1-3

The Purpose of God

5. We can't measure the Church by its numbers, passion or impact, but only by Christ, the Head of the Church, who has all authority. How does this inspire you to overcome your hurts, habits and hang-ups?

- A** What in your life has God shown that you need to take Christ's authority over?

 - P** In prayer, allow Christ to have all authority over every part of your life, as He already has in the world. Pray He will enable you to overcome the things you have identified so that you can walk in victory in Him.

Sermon Notes

The People of God

Big Idea... Paul shows us who we are apart from Christ.

S Read and meditate on Ephesians 2:1-3.

O Paul graphically shows us who we are apart from Christ. **He calls it death!** Just as a dead body cannot sense, respond or experience the material world, so a spiritually dead body cannot sense, respond or experience God's work in their lives. Just as a dead body decays, so a spiritually dead person is corrupted by following the ways of this world. It's good for us to pause and take a look at ourselves separated from Christ.

1. What does it mean that those apart from Christ are dead in sin? Does that mean they are as bad as they can be? What about 'nice' people who do good works?

2. Can you tell what it felt like to follow the ways of the world?

3. List some of the 'ways' of the world today - sins that are fashionable now. Which ones are you tempted by the most? Why these?

The People of God

5. How can the world see the unity of the Body of Christ?

A What is one action you can take this week to apply the truth God has revealed in this study?

P Pray you experience being united with Christ and joined to His Body and the joy of being built up by God Himself.

Sermon Notes

The People of God

Big Idea... Jews and Gentiles make one in Christ.

- S** Read and meditate on Ephesians 2:11-22.
- O** Paul was speaking to Gentiles who were isolated from the promises and covenants God made with Israel. They were without hope and God in the world. But Christ changed the course of history by bringing **believers from every tribe**, nation and tongue to Himself.
1. How do you think the distinction between Jew and Gentiles started?

 2. How can those outside the Kingdom of Christ show they are without hope?

 3. What are some man-made barriers we can set up to divide the Church or keep others out?

 4. How does becoming a child of God affect your attitude to God and others?

The People of God

4. How can we tell if Satan is real and really leading us to disobey?

 5. What does it mean to be an object of wrath?

- A** Paul has enabled us to clearly see who we are without Jesus as our Saviour and Lord. Write down a thank-you letter to God for His amazing grace shown to us.

- P** In prayer, give thanks that Jesus came to rescue us while we were dead in sin. Pray for those you know who are still dead.

Sermon Notes

The People of God

Big Idea... After the Cross, Jesus rose and was seated in Heaven and we are there with Him to show the incomparable riches of His grace.

- S** Read and meditate on Ephesians 2:6-9.
- O** Like the old song says, "I'm not what I wanta' be, I'm not what I will be, but thank God I'm not what I was!" And it all depends on what Jesus did for us. Because what happened to Him has also happened to us. Paul tells us the Gospel: God has brought us to life, raised us up and even **seated us with Him in the Heavenly realms**. In Him we are conquerors. This is now our position in Him.
1. Consider how you are exalted with Christ to the place of universal rulership, while at the same time living day by day in your ordinary life. How can they fit together? How can your position of being exalted with Christ be seen by others?

 2. In Christ we are not the same old person. Write down some of the things you have overcome in your life by being in Christ. What are some things you are still to conquer?

 3. How can you show the incomparable riches of God's grace that was expressed in God's kindness to you?

The People of God

4. Are you sometimes tempted to feel you earn your salvation by believing in Jesus or by being really good? What are some 'boasts' you have heard or spoken yourself?

 5. Our salvation is a gracious gift of God. What does it mean that it comes 'through faith'?

- A** What is one action you can take this week to apply the truth God has revealed in this study? .

- P** Pray that God, in His grace, will enable you to be who you are in Christ.

Sermon Notes
